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learning in many fields, and his firm grasp of the truth of whatever he handles give great popularity to every product of his restless pen. In the book here noticed he applies his methods and skill to an historical book of the Old Testament. It gives a great field for the play of a keen imagination, as well as for prudence in picking out the chief lessons to be impressed upon the reader. The author puts the whole narrative through his loom, weaves together into exquisite patterns the warp and woof at his disposal. Striking expressions, telling hits, illustrations from all history, bits of pat poetry, and an elegant rhetorical finish fill the book with genuine interest.

The work is divided into four books, (I) Introduction, (II) David and Solomon, (III) the Divided Kingdom, (IV) Ahab and Elijah. The introduction discusses (1) the higher criticism, (2) the Book of Kings, (3) the historian of Kings, (4) God in history, (5) history with a purpose, (6) lessons of the history. The body of the Book of I. Kings is treated in forty-one chapters, and the whole is concluded with an appendix on chronology, in which the last and best system (division of kingdom, 937 B. C.) is adopted.

In the introduction the writer defines, though not always clearly, his position on critical questions. The discussion shows that he follows, though cautiously, such authorities as Robertson Smith, Stade and Kittel. He is quite ready to speak of "historic tradition" (p. 302), "details added later" (p. 297); and sometimes to question the historical verity of the narrative. He, of course, is not an independent investigator on these lines, and, as we should expect, must, in large part, popularize positions already taken by recognized leaders. While carefully following the latest works in these studies, he has not neglected to add an abundance of useful and striking examples out of his fund of knowledge of ancient and modern history. His method of pursuing the subject by topics rather than by texts furnishes ample play for adding to this rich source of teaching and truth. The abundance of footnotes tells of the wide preparation of the author, and are also an extremely valuable apparatus for the real student. The book has no index—a blemish, indeed, on an otherwise praiseworthy and helpful work.

PRICE.

Wit and Humor of the Bible: A Literary Study. By MARION D. SHUTTER, D.D. Boston: The Arena Publishing Co. 1893. Pages 219. Price \$1.50.

"What a title!" Why not? The Bible represents the whole circle of human nature. Its serene and solemn, gay and joyous moods are pictured. It would be passing strange if the Bible contained no traces of genuine wit. This is a bright book. It brings out numerous cases of biting repartee, sarcastic retort, and caustic irony. In some cases the humor is apparent only in the curt, epigrammatic expression. In others there are real startling flashes of wit. This is a new and legitimate side to the human nature of the Bible, and Mr. Shutter has brought it out with good effect.

PRICE.